



INFORMATION

In response to some queries our Secretary has compiled the information mentioned below. If you have any queries at all please contact her, Olivia Poonah, at +27 (0)21 889 6555 or olivia@wsb.org.za.

1 LABELLING GUIDELINES FOR LOW ALCOHOL WINE, DE-ALCOHOLISED WINE AND ALCOHOL FREE WINE

In Wine Law 1 of 2019 of 31 May 2019 we set out the proposed requirements for the above-mentioned new classes (excerpt attached as ANNEX A1). We expect the Minister concerned to publish these during March 2020. In anticipation we have compiled labelling guidelines for these new classes, attached as ANNEX A2.

2 HOW TO LIST A NEW GRAPE VARIETY FOR WINEMAKING

Please see ANNEX B. If you wish to just add a synonym for a currently listed variety, send a motivated request to our Secretary.

3 REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW WINE PACKAGING

Please see ANNEX C1. The provisions of Regulation 41, mentioned in ANNEX C1, are set out in ANNEX C2.

ANDRÉ MATTHEE

DIRECTOR: REGULATORY SERVICES

WINE AND SPIRIT BOARD

Tel: +27 83 444 6963 Email: matthee@wo.org.za

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WINE OF ORIGIN (WO) · INTEGRATED PRODUCTION OF WINE (IPW) · ESTATE BRANDY



4.1 Low alcohol wine

- Alcohol content of more than 0.5 % but less than 4.5 %.
- Alcohol may only be removed by means of the prescribed physical processes and not by any other means, for example, by adding exogenous water.
- Variety and vintage year allowed if the wine was provisionally certified before de-alcoholisation. Sensorial evaluation for provisional certification shall be optional. Product may not be certified for origin and is not eligible for the certification seal.

4.2 De-alcoholised wine

- Alcohol content of less than 0.5 %.
- Alcohol may only be removed by means of the prescribed physical processes and not by any other means, for example, by adding exogenous water.
- Variety and vintage year allowed if the wine was provisionally certified before de-alcoholisation. Sensorial evaluation for provisional certification shall be optional. Product may not be certified for origin and is not eligible for the certification seal.
- Labelling requirements of the Liquor Products Act and its subordinate legislation shall apply.
- The mandatory class designation ("de-alcoholised") or a permissible alternative class designation ("non-alcoholic" or "alcohol removed") shall always be indicated in conjunction with the expression "contains less than 0.5 % alcohol by volume".
- Glycerol may be added to this product after de-alcoholisation. Many other countries do not allow this addition.

4.3 Alcohol free wine

- Alcohol content of less than 0.05 %. No analytical tolerance will be allowed.
- Alcohol may only be removed by means of the prescribed physical processes and not by any other means, for example, by adding exogenous water.
- Variety and vintage year allowed if the wine was provisionally certified before de-alcoholisation. Sensorial evaluation for provisional certification shall be optional. Product may not be certified for origin and is not eligible for the certification seal.
- Labelling requirements of the Liquor Products Act and its subordinate legislation shall apply.
- Glycerol may be added to this product after de-alcoholisation. Many other countries do not allow this addition.

Labelling guidelines for new classes:

Low Alcohol wine, De-alcoholised wine, Alcohol Free wine

- 1. No reference to origin is permitted.** This includes but is not limited to, listing the location of one's winery, homestead, vineyard, farm, tasting room and estate. The use of maps and/or GPS coordinates are also prohibited.
- 2. The A-number or full name and address must be listed with mandatory information.** If a producer chooses to list their full name and address it must be an address in the true sense of the word and not qualify origin.
- 3. Cultivar may be listed.** Provided that the wine concerned was provisionally approved/certified as such before the alcohol was removed. If a single cultivar is listed, it must constitute at least 85% of the wine. If a blend and you want to show the cultivars, all cultivars must be listed except where two or more of the cultivars constitutes 85% of the blend and each of these varietals constitutes 20% or more of the blend, then only those two or more cultivars may be indicated in descending order.
- 4. Contains sulphites must be listed** if Sulphur dioxide is present in a concentration of more than 10mg/l, measured as total Sulphur Dioxide. No sulphites added or sulphites free (in the latter case such claim must be followed directly by wording to the effect that it contains less than 10mg/l of sulphites) may be listed provided that the total Sulphur Dioxide is less than 10mg/l. Sulphites free may be also be claimed if the wine contains no discernible sulphites.
- 5. Vintage may be listed.** The vintage of the wine may be listed provided that the wine was provisionally approved/certified as such before the alcohol was removed. At least 85% of the wine must be from the indicated vintage.
- 6. Sweetness indicators may be listed.** Class designations such as dry, off-dry, semi-sweet and sweet or in the case of sparkling/perle wine, brut nature, extra brut, brut, dry and doux may be listed provided it is factually correct and verifiable and comply with the relevant provisions in the Regulations.
- 7. Sparkling wine and Pettillant/Perle wine may be listed.** Provided that the pressure in the wine's container meets the requirements of the class concerned.

8. **The use of the terms Estate Wine and Single Vineyard wine is prohibited.**
9. **The class designation of the wine must be listed.** The correct class designation relevant to the wine such as Low Alcohol wine, De-alcoholised wine/Non-alcoholic wine/Alcohol Removed wine or Alcohol-Free wine must be listed. See below for more requirements in this regard.
10. **Do not use "wine" on its own if it can create a misleading impression.** E.g. calling the product only "wine" on the main label, which can lead the consumer to believe this is wine other than low alcohol wine or de-alcoholised wine or alcohol-free wine.
11. **Besides the above- mentioned (paragraphs 6 and 7) class designations, Blanc de noir and Rosé, the listing of other class designations is not permitted.**

Low Alcohol wine

(Please note the current Low Alcohol requirement, which is less than 10% vol will be replaced by Lower in Alcohol)

The alcohol content must be listed with the other mandatory information. The alcohol content for this class must be between 0.5%-4.5%. The class designation, "Low alcohol wine" must be listed with the other mandatory information.

De-alcoholised wine

The class designation "De-alcoholised wine" or one of its approved synonyms namely "Non-alcoholic wine" or "Alcohol removed wine" must be listed followed directly by the expression "contains less than 0.5% alcohol by volume" or "contains no more than 0.5 % alcohol by volume". The class designation must be listed with the other mandatory information. If the class designation is used on a main label (any label usually facing the consumer) one of the above-mentioned expressions must also be used in direct conjunction with the class designation.

The actual alcohol content of the wine need not be listed. However, should a producer choose to list the actual alcohol it must be factually correct and verifiable as no tolerance has been provided for.

Alcohol Free wine.

The class designation "Alcohol free wine" must be listed with the other mandatory information. Remember, an alcohol-free wine must have an ethyl alcohol content of less than 0.05 per cent per volume.

NB: All labels, claiming cultivar or vintage year, must be submitted to the Label Committee of the Wine and Spirit Board for approval prior to printing.

Please note the labels for the above-mentioned classes may be submitted for evaluation but the products for said may only be certified once the amendments to the Regulations, which lists these classes are published.

Listing new grape varieties

Uncertified wines may be made from grapes from the genus *Vitis* this, thus, includes non *Vitis vinifera* grapes. Table 1 of the Regulations of the Liquor Products Act lists all approved varieties for uncertified wines.

Certified wine must be from the *Vitis vinifera* specie as listed in Table 1 of the Wine of Origin Scheme, no provision is made for any other *Vitis* species.

All proposed additions to the above-mentioned tables must be listed on the South African Variety list as maintained by the Registrar of Plant Improvements at the Department of Agriculture. See link below

<https://www.daff.gov.za/daffweb3/Branches/Agricultural-Production-Health-Food-Safety/Plant-Production/Varietal-Listing>

For uncertified wine as administered by the Department of Agriculture the process is as follows to get new varieties listed on Table 1 of the Regulations: A request must be sent to the Administering Officer (WendyJ@daff.gov.za / 021 809 0374) for permission to make experimental wine of the variety concerned, the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development will request the resulting wine to be sensorially evaluated by the Technical Committee of the Board and request that a recommendation be made. The grape variety will then be approved and added to Table 1 of the Regulations.

Only grape varieties listed in Table 1 of the Regulations may be used for making uncertified wine.

For certified wine as administered by the Wine and Spirit Board the process is as follows to get new varieties listed on Table 1 of the W.O. Scheme: A request must be sent to the Board for permission to make experimental wine of the variety concerned, the Board will request the resulting wine to be sensorially evaluated by the Technical Committee and request that a recommendation be made. The grape variety will then be approved and added to Table 1 of the W.O. Scheme and Table 1 of the Regulations.

For certified wine the OIV variety list will also be updated to ensure the variety concerned is listed as this will have an impact on exporting the resulting wine.

Previously the new variety could only be used once officially listed in the Tables mentioned above. A few years ago, this was amended to expedite the process for producers. Now the variety may be used once approved by the Administering Officer or the Board, as the case may be.

New Packaging for wine

For uncertified wine

New packaging must comply with the provisions of Regulation 41 of the Liquor Products Act, which requires a self-supporting and rigid container. Regulation 41 also lists requirements for containers, not rigid and self-supporting, and for all plastic containers.

For certified wine

Article 21 of the Wine of Origin Scheme only allows for certification in glass containers. However, under subsection (2) of that Article the board may on application grant written exemption from this requirement.

For the Board to fulfil its statutory duty of only certifying healthy wine, the following must be provided when submitting an application;

- The oxygen permeability of the proposed packaging
- Materials used – is it inert
- Where will the certification seal be placed?
- Sample of the proposed packaging
- Shelf life testing report

Please note the packaging must adhere to the requirements of Regulation 41 as well.

41. Additional presentation requirements [27(1)]

- (1) In addition to presentation requirements in this regulations and any other law, liquor products shall comply with the presentation requirements set out in this regulation.
- (2) A liquor product intended for off-consumption by the public shall only be sold in prepackaged form.
- (3) A liquor product -
- (a) may only be prepackaged in a self-supporting and rigid container; or
[Para. (a) substituted by GN R5/2018]
- (b) if filled in a container, which is not self-supporting, such container shall -
- (i) be prepackaged in a self-supporting, not-returnable, tamper-proof and rigid outer packaging, which completely encloses and covers up that container;
[Subpara. (i) substituted by GN R5/2018]
- (ii) be equipped with a sealed tap, which can be used in conjunction with the outer packaging;
- (iii) after filling and final closure, have an oxygen permeability not exceeding the limit, expressed as cubic centimetres of oxygen and measured in a 24 hour period at a temperature of 23 degrees Celsius in an atmosphere with a relative humidity of 50 per cent, set out in column 2 of the Table below for the container capacity specified in column 1 opposite thereto; and
[Subpara. (iii) substituted by GN R525/2012]
- | Capacity | Limit |
|-------------------|-------|
| 1 | 2 |
| More than 1 litre | 0.25 |
| 1 litre and less | 0.125 |
- (iv) have a capacity of not more than 5 litres; or
- (c) if filled in a foil bag, which is not self-supporting, such foil bag shall -
- (i) comply with the requirements set out in subparagraph (b)(iii);
- (ii) only be delivered to retail outlets for purposes of on-consumption by the public on the retail premises concerned; and
- (iii) be installed in a closed dispenser for purposes of such on-consumption.
- (4) A plastic container prepackage containing a liquor product shall -
- (a) be equipped with a sealed, tamper-proof cap;
- (b) be new and rigid plastic;
[Para. (b) substituted by GN R5/2018]
- (c) have a capacity of not more than 5 litres; and
- (d) after filling and final closure, have an oxygen permeability not exceeding the limit, expressed as cubic centimetres of oxygen and measured in a 24 hour period at a temperature of 23 degrees Celsius in an atmosphere with a relative humidity of 50 per cent, set out in column 2 of the Table below for the container capacity set out in column 1 opposite thereto.
[Para. (d) substituted by GN R525/2012]

Capacity	Limit
1	2
More than 1.5 litres	0.25
1.5 litres	0.19
1 litre and more, but less than 1.5 litres	0.125
750 millilitres and more, but less than 1 litre	0.09
500 millilitres and more, but less than 750 millilitres	0.06
Less than 500 millilitres	0.06

[Reg. 41 deleted by GN R2242/94 and inserted by GN R846/2007]